

**00131**

**1961/04/18**

52 Telegram from the Embassy in the Soviet Union to the Department of State

(4) Moscow, April 18, 1961, 2 p.m.

2550.

~~Do not forward~~

FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY FROM KRUSHCHEV HANDLED BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER SEYNOV AT 12:15 TODAY. BEGIN TEXT:

(i) MR. PRESIDENT, I SEND YOU THIS MESSAGE IN AN HOUR OF ALARM, BRAUGHT WITH DANGER FOR THE PEACE OF THE WHOLE WORLD. ARMED AGGRESSION HAS BEGUN AGAINST CUBA. IT IS A SECRET TO NO ONE THAT THE ARMED BANDS INVADING THIS COUNTRY WERE TRAINED, EQUIPPED AND ARMED, IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THE PLANES WHICH ARE BOMBING CUBAN CITIES BELONG TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE BOMBS THEY ARE DROPPING ARE BEING SUPPLIED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

(ii) ALL OF THIS EVOKES HERE IN THE SOVIET UNION AN UNDERSTANDABLE FEELING OF INDIGNATION ON THE PART OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND THE SOVIET PEOPLE.

(iii) ONLY RECENTLY, IN EXCHANGING OPINIONS THROUGH OUR RESPECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES, WE TALKED WITH YOU ABOUT THE MUTUAL DESIRE OF BOTH SIDES TO PUT FORWARD JOINT EFFORTS DIRECTED TOWARD IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND ELIMINATING THE DANGER OF WAR. YOUR STATEMENT A FEW DAYS AGO THAT THE USA WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN MILITARY ACTIVITIES AGAINST CUBA CREATED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TOP LEADERS OF THE UNITED STATES WERE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSEQUENCES FOR GENERAL PEACE AND FOR THE USA ITSELF WHICH AGGRESSION AGAINST CUBA COULD HAVE.

(53) Source: Department of State, ~~578 Files~~ Lot 77 D 163, Pen

Pal Series, 1961-1964, Special US-USSR File, 1961. Secret; Niact; Received in the Department on April 18 at 8:53 a.m. Limit Distribution. The Embassy also reported that a demonstration against U.S. involvement in Cuba began outside the Embassy at 2:35 p.m. local time. (*Ibid.*, Central Files, 737.00/4-1861) The Soviet government released the text of the letter to the press at the same time that it was presented to the Embassy in Moscow. The text of the letter is also printed in Department of State Bulletin, May 8, 1961, p. 662. Aminuddin Zirin read the text of Krushchev's letter to President Kennedy in the First Committee on April 8. (U.N. doc. A/C.1/SR.1153) See footnote 3, Document m. Geheimschreiber memorandum, 4/14/61

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HOW CAN WHAT IS BEING DONE BY THE UNITED STATES IN REALITY BE  
UNDERSTOOD, WHEN AN ATTACK ON CUBA HAS NOW BECOME A FACT?

⑩ IT IS STILL NOT LATE TO AVOID THE IRREPARABLE. THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE USA STILL HAS THE POSSIBILITY OF NOT ALLOWING THE FLAME  
OF WAR IGNITED BY INTERVENTIONS IN CUBA TO GROW INTO AN  
INCOMPARABLE CONFLAGRATION. I APPROACH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, WITH  
AN URGENT CALL TO PUT AN END TO AGGRESSION AGAINST THE REPUBLIC  
OF CUBA. MILITARY ARMAMENT AND THE WORLD POLITICAL SITUATION  
ARE SUCH AT THIS TIME THAT ANY SO-CALLED "LITTLE WAR" CAN  
TOUCH OFF A CHAIN REACTION IN ALL PARTS OF THE GLOBE.

738 ⑪ AS FAR AS THE SOVIET UNION IS CONCERNED, THERE SHOULD BE NO  
MISTAKE ABOUT OUR POSITION: WE WILL RENDER THE CUBAN PEOPLE  
AND THEIR GOVERNMENT ALL NECESSARY HELP TO REPEL ARMED ATTACK  
ON CUBA. WE ARE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN A RELAXATION OF  
INTERNATIONAL TENSION, BUT IF OTHERS PROCEED TOWARD SHARPENING,  
WE WILL ANSWER THEM IN FULL MEASURE. AND IN GENERAL IT IS HARDLY  
POSSIBLE SO TO CONDUCT MATTERS THAT THE SITUATION IS SETTLED IN  
ONE AREA AND CONFLAGRATION EXTINGUISHED, WHILE A NEW CONFLAGRATION  
IS IGNITED IN ANOTHER AREA.

⑫ I HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA WILL CONSIDER OUR VIEWS  
DICTATED BY THE SOLE CONCERN NOT TO ALLOW STEPS WHICH COULD LEAD  
THE WORLD TO MILITARY CATASTROPHY. END TEXT.

⑬ FREERS (6104)

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